(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the extent of this menace in India and how far the new measures will help control this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the competent authority can order for interception of any message or class of messages. Therefore, the question of imposing fine for such an interception does not arise.

(c) The interception of message or class of messages is ordered by the competent authority under specified circumstances and new measures further restrict the period of *post facto* approval under emergent cases.

Expansion of Mobile Telephone Network

2118. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are undertaking major mobile telephone network expansion projects in various zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the poor quality equipment and infrastructure supplied by some of the private companies is impeding early completion of the expansion projects and resulting in heavy revenue loss to BSNL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action contemplated against the defaulting companies and speed up implementation of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The zone-wise expansion plan of cellular mobile telephone (GSM) network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and two units of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is as follows:

(i) **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL):**

Expansion plan of cellular mobile telephone network:

Zone	Expansion undertaken (in million lines)	Further expansion plan (in million lines)	Remarks
North	4	2.6	Out of 15 million lines, around 7.5 million lines have been released for commercial use. The balance capacity of 15 million lines and the further expansion of 4.6 million lines are planned to be made progressively available by 31.12.2006.
East	3	-	
West	4	2	
South	4	-	
Total	15	4.6	

(ii) **Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL):**

Expansion plan of cellular mobile telephone network:

Zone	Expansion undertaken (in million lines)	Further expansion plan (in million lines)	Remarks
Delhi	0.2	0.2	The further expansion of 0.4 million lines are planned to be made progressively available by 1st quarter of 2006-07.
Mumbai	0.2	0.2	
Total	0.4	0.4	

(c) No, Sir. While the equipment supplied is not of inferior quality, there were certain inter working problems experienced while integrating with the existing network which is generally experienced in a multi-vendor environment. These have resulted in delayed availability of the capacities.

(d) BSNL is monitoring the expansion regularly and pursuing with the vendors for addressing all the inter working issues to ensure availability of balance capacities early. The vendors are penalized for delays as per provisions in the contract.